

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL  
5 December 1984

SHOOTING VICTIM LINKED TO WILSON, VESCO  
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WASHINGTON

Ernest Keiser, who helped the government lure renegade CIA agent Edwin Wilson from Libya to face gun-running charges in the United States, says he was shot and wounded by a gunman who may be linked to another fugitive -- Robert Vesco.

Keiser, 65, suffered a superficial wound in the right side late Sunday outside a restaurant in suburban McLean, Va. The assailant fled with Keiser's briefcase, which he said held confidential documents concerning Vesco, who faces charges in a \$200 million-plus fraud.

From his hospital bed, Keiser said in a telephone interview Tuesday there were two possibilities of who sent the gunman: a vengeful Wilson operating from his prison cell or Vesco, whose whereabouts are not known.

Keiser said the shooting might be connected with his reported cooperation with federal authorities in trying to get Vesco back to the United States -- "but I have no proof."

Fairfax County, Va., police said they had no suspects in the shooting.

Vesco, 49, fled the United States 13 years ago. He is known to have visited Cuba, living at a seaside villa, and may be there now. In 1983, he was reported living in Norman's Cay, a small island in the Bahamas, and allegedly involved in drug trafficking.

Vesco and 20 others are charged with misappropriating \$224 million from Investors Overseas Services, which racked up a phenomenal business from its Geneva, Switzerland, headquarters before it went bust. Vesco is also wanted in the United States on charges of making illegal contributions to President Richard Nixon's 1972 re-election campaign.

On the possibility of Wilson ordering a "hit," Keiser said, "Everything is possible. But I doubt it."

"I can't pinpoint anything yet but it definitely was not a mugging," he said, noting the assailant "didn't take my wallet, only the briefcase."

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